



*St* NICOLAS' CHURCH  
ABINGDON-ON-THAMES

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**Sunday 15 May 2022**  
**Fifth Sunday of Easter**  
8am Holy Communion  
The Revd Elizabeth Birch  
**11:15am Holy Communion**  
**The Revd Canon Dr Emma Percy**

Dear Friends

Welcome! A special welcome to Canon Emma Percy who is presiding and preaching for us today. We are delighted that she is able to be with us.

Welcome also to the parents and family of Ronnie Stone who come to give thanks for his birth and be presented with a Bible, all as part of his preparation for Baptism.

In the gospel today Jesus gives his disciples a new commandment to 'love one another as I have loved you'. The love of Jesus for us and all people is unconditional. The commandment points us not simply to love each other and those we know (although that is fundamental in every Christian community), but the world over. As Christian Aid keeps its national week of fund raising and prayer this week, our focus to live out this new commandment is sharpened. It underlines that our concerns go beyond those things which sometimes overwhelm and preoccupy our parochial life, and call us to think more widely, imaginatively, and attentively about the needs of others and act where we can. Details of how you can give financially from a local Abingdon collection to the work of Christian Aid this week can be found in this pewleaflet. Praying for their work is also essential: prayer is never passive.

Finally, as has been our custom over some years now, we shall be holding the Ascension Day Eucharist here in St Nics at 7pm on Thursday 26 May. I will preside at that service and Canon Charles Masheder will be our preacher. This is the first time since the pandemic hit that we shall be able to return to a celebration with singing and a choir from across the three congregations. The service will be followed by refreshments. Please do join us on this important Feast Day in the church's year, when we remember Jesus' Ascension into heaven, where he intercedes for us at the right hand of the Father, and as we wait for the gift of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost.

With love and blessings

*Fr Paul*

## READINGS & COLLECT

Acts 11.1-18

Psalm 148

Revelation 21.1-6

John 13.31-35

**Collect:** Almighty God, who through your only-begotten Son Jesus Christ have overcome death and opened to us the gate of everlasting life: grant that, as by your grace going before us you put into our minds good desires, so by your continual help we may bring them to good effect; through Jesus Christ our risen Lord, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

**This evening @ St Helen's 5.30 pm** Choral Evensong/Easter Lessons and Carols

### Sunday 22 May

8:00am Holy Communion Bishop Henry Scriven

11:15am Holy Communion The Revd Paul Smith

We ask that you sanitise your hands on arrival and departure and wear a mask even for congregational singing. Thank you for helping to keep one another safe.

**The May edition of the Parish Magazine 'A Candle in the Window'** is available for you to download by Sunday 15th May. Go to the new Parish Website at [https://abingdonparish.org.uk/P\\_communications.html](https://abingdonparish.org.uk/P_communications.html) and select Issue 4. Read Fr Paul's article about the Queen, Charles Masheder's reflections on 50 years of ordained ministry and much more!

## CHURCH NEWS

**Flowers: many thanks** to all who contributed to our Easter flowers. There is a list at the back of church if you would like to offer to arrange the flowers for a Sunday (or two?). Traditional arrangements (although wonderful when we have them) are not needed – a few vases to bring creation into the building and brighten our worship would be great. Why not give it a go?

**Celebration Service for The Queen's Platinum Jubilee:** There will be a Civic Service for the whole community of Abingdon to celebrate HM the Queen's Platinum Jubilee at St Helen's Church on Thursday 2 June at 7pm. We will be thanking God for her great sense of duty, her faith and her life of devotion and care for the Nation and the Commonwealth. All very welcome!

## DIARY DATES

**Saturday 14 May Oxford Pro-Musica Singers** are performing a floral themed concert at St Michael's at 7:30pm. Tickets £12.00 in advance, see <https://opms.org.uk/event/floral-choral-2>, or on the door.

**Sunday 15 May, Abbey Chamber Concert:** St Nicolas Church 3-4pm, Osman Tack (piano) plays Clementi Sonata quasi Concerto, Adès Mazurkas, Dodgson Bagatelles, Schumann "Abegg" Variations, Chopin "Oceanic" Etude. Tickets £10 from <https://abbeychamberconcerts.org/event/osman-tack-piano-plays-beethoven-and-dodgson/>

**Monday 16 – Saturday 21 May, Abbey Group Art Exhibition,** St Nicolas Church. 10am - 5pm. Featuring work by Claire Cross, Margaret Horton, Marion Owen & Dougie Simpson, with guest glass artist Chris Eccles.

**This is Christian Aid Week – 15 – 21 May when we support and remember the work of this important global charity**

**Saturday, 21st May, Christian Aid Market Place Sale (09:00-13:00)** with Cake, Plant and Book Stalls.

**Abingdon e-envelope for online donations for Christian Aid Week:** If you would like to make an online donation to the Christian Aid week appeal please use this link to the Abingdon Christian Aid e-envelope:

<https://envelope.christianaid.org.uk/envelope/abingdon-christian-aid>

**Sunday 22 May, Concert by All Saints Singers in Sutton Courtenay Church, 7:30pm.**

Vivaldi: Gloria in D, Nulla in Mundo Pax Sincera; Mozart: Missa Brevis in C major; Sparrow Mass (Spatzenmesse); Mozart: Ave Verum Corpus; Haydn: Te Deum in C major

Tickets £15 (including a programme) from chairman@allsaintssingers.org or 07870 506774 or the Bookstore in Bury Street, Abingdon or apply on-line at

<https://www.trybooking.com/uk/BODN>.

**Saturday 28 May “The Queen’s Gambit”: Jubilee Chess Championship** All ages welcome!

Restricted to the first 32 contestants to **apply by 14 May**. This fundraising event is co-hosted by The Abingdon Passion Play and One Planet Abingdon Climate Emergency Centre, with the support of Abingdon Town Council. Entry is £10 in aid of the Abingdon Passion Play. Tickets available online at [www.abingdonpassionplay.co.uk](http://www.abingdonpassionplay.co.uk)

**Saturday 28 May, Fundraising Concert for MIND**, St Nicolas Church. Find out more and book tickets, £15, at

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/fundraising-concert-for-mind-in-memory-of-artemis-tickets-320831273977>

**Tuesday 31 May, Silent Reflections** at 7.30 pm at St Michael and All Angels. Entry will be through the North door (opposite Albert Park). Final prayers will be at 8.30 pm and refreshments will be available. Fr Paul will be providing materials on the theme: Mary and Elizabeth: Meeting the Cousins of Gladness to mark the Feast Day of the Visitation of the Blessed Virgin Mary to Elizabeth. A copy will be emailed to all those on our list, and made available on the Prayer and Worship Resources page of St Michael's website. Paper copies will be available in church. All are welcome.

## COMMUNITY NEWS

**Our Responsibilities at This Time:** “What we do in the next 3-4 years will determine the future of humanity” Come and hear prominent climate crisis speakers, the Revd Tim Hewes and Ms Thalia Carr, explain how we can prevent this disaster: Friday 20th May, 7.00pm Oxford Friends Meeting House, 43 St Giles, Oxford, OX1 3LW Get the facts and find out what has to be done. Register at: <https://bit.ly/399eVFz> or come to our Zoom meeting: details at: <https://bit.ly/3EtjDJM>

**Ukraine Crisis Appeal** Many charities have launched appeals to provide help in the humanitarian situation in Ukraine, including the British Red Cross - <https://www.redcross.org.uk>; UNHCR - <https://www.unrefugees.org.uk>; the Disasters Emergency Committee - <https://www.dec.org.uk>.

## WORSHIP

**Daily:** Morning Prayer is said at St Helen’s each week day at 9:10am

**Wednesdays:** Holy Communion in St Helen’s Church at 10:30am

**Thursdays:** Said Mass at St Michael’s at 12:30pm

**Thy Kingdom Come. Prayer walking our neighbourhoods.** Specific time of prayer during the week 26 May - 5 June (between Ascension and Pentecost). This is an initiative started by the Archbishops of Canterbury and York in 2016 which has gone global. It is simply walking and praying about what you see around you. If it isn't possible for you to walk or move around, perhaps an alternative might be to find somewhere to be in the area in which you live and spend time praying there. If it is not easy for you to go out then perhaps you could use a local map, or think about those living in your locality or street, and pray for them and all that goes on in that area. On the [Thy Kingdom Come](#) website, there are many resources. How we spend this time and how you are able to keep it, alone or with others, is to enable us together to cover Abingdon with prayer and blessing.

### FOR YOUR PRAYERS

- Steven, Gavin, and Henry our bishops; Justin, Archbishop of Canterbury;
- Her Majesty the Queen, and all the Royal Family;
- The family of Ronnie Stone, as they join us today for his Thanksgiving in preparation for his baptism;
- The witness of our Easter Faith;
- The work of Christian Aid;
- Our Government and all who hold office;
- The people of the Ukraine and all seeking refuge especially locally or in the UK;
- Any known to us suffering in body, mind and spirit, especially those among our congregations who are suffering with Covid at this time;
- For those who have died recently, especially for Carol, Alan, Betty and Graham;
- The care homes in our parish, and for all residents, families and staff at Bridge House and Old Station House, with whom we have special links.
- St Nicolas School, Andy Spooner, Headteacher, the Governing Body and all the staff and pupils.

#### Prayer for Ukraine

God of peace and justice, we pray for the people of Ukraine today. We pray for peace and the laying down of weapons. We pray for all those who fear for tomorrow, that your Spirit of comfort would draw near to them. We pray for those with power over war or peace, for wisdom, discernment and compassion to guide their decisions. Above all, we pray for all your precious children, at risk and in fear, that you would hold and protect them. We pray in the name of Jesus, the Prince of Peace. Amen

*Archbishop of Canterbury, The Most Revd Justin Welby  
Archbishop of York, The Most Revd Stephen Cottrell*

#### CONTACT US

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**Please send any items for next week's pew slip to [eluned@hallas.org.uk](mailto:eluned@hallas.org.uk) by Wednesday**